189.
2099

THE

FALSE PROPHET TESTED;

OR,

Mormonism Refuted.

BY

J. F. FISHWICK.

LONDON:
WERTHEIM AND MACINTOSH,
24, PATERNOSTER-ROW;
AND SOLD BY KIRBY, 118, WHITECHAPEL-ROAD;
C. A. BOCKING, 12, GRENADA-TERRACE, COMMERCIAL-ROAD;
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.
1853.

Price One Penny; or, with a Cover, Twopence.

Vault
M209
F537f
1853

THE

FALSE PROPHET TESTED;

OR,

Mormonism Refuted.

BY

J. F. FISHWICK.

LONDON:

WERTHEIM AND MACINTOSH,

24, PATERNOSTER-ROW;

AND SOLD BY KIRBY, 118, WHITECHAPEL-ROAD;

C. A. BOCKING, 12, GRENADA-TERRACE, COMMERCIAL-ROAD;

AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1853.

PRICE ONE PENNY; OR WITH A COVER, TWOPENCE.

ENTERED AT
STATIONERS HALL.

THE FALSE PROPHET TESTED.

"How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then *follow him*."—1 KINGS XVIII. 21.

Stedfast. Good morning to you, Mr. Candid. I am glad to see you; but, by-the-bye, I hear that you are going to leave us?—is it true?

Candid. Well, I have been thinking about it, for I have heard so much of the Latter-day Saints, and of the wonders they are doing, that I have almost made up my mind to go with them to America.

S. Well, I wonder at that. I always thought you knew better than to be led away by such

HISTORIAN'S OFFICE LIBRARY
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
2099

teachers as the Latter-day Saints, as they call themselves, are.

C. Don't you know, Sir, that when God sent a prophet to the people, they were bound to receive and obey him? (See Jer. xxvi. 4—6.)

S. Yes, I do; but at the same time I read that there were many false prophets among the people, even as there shall be *false teachers* among us, "who shall privily bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and shall bring on themselves swift destruction; and many shall follow their pernicious ways, by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of, and through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you." (2 Peter ii. 1—3.) Here you see that though holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, there were at the same time pretenders, or false prophets; and we are warned against false teachers with feigned words. It is not what a man pretends to be that makes his words true. He may talk finely, and all the while

secretly bring in a damnable heresy. That there were false prophets you may learn from the following passages:—Jer. xiv. 14; xxiii. 16—21 and 30—32; xxvii. 10—15; and 1 Kings xiii. 18; xxii. 6. We must be on our guard against pretenders to Divine knowledge and power, and reject them, even though they talk of Christ. You can see that this is our duty in Matt. xxiv. 11, 23, 26; Mark xiii. 21—23; aye, even if they say that they are true Christians. (Acts xx. 29, 30.) There were many in the Apostles' times. (See 1 John iv. 1; Galatians ii. 4; Ephes. i. 6, 7; 2 Peter ii. 1—3; Col. ii. 8—18; Jude 3, 4, 5, 11, 19; Rom. xvi. 17, 18.)

C. But, Sir, you have not read the "Book of Doctrines and Covenants," or you would there see that God chose Joseph Smith to be his Prophet, and inspired him to translate the "Book of Mormon;" and surely we must not disobey or deny him. (See Jer. xxvi. 4—6.)

S. I have read the "Book of Mormon," and that of "Doctrines and Covenants," yet I still

think them false, although the Latter-day Saints say they believe in the *Bible* as well as we do, and that it speaks of them and their "Book of Mormon," in Isaiah xxix. 11, 12. But THE MAHOMETANS MIGHT SAY THE SAME FOR THEIR KORAN, OR ANY ONE ELSE MAY SAY THE SAME FOR ANY OTHER BOOK, with as much truth. But this is not evidence enough for me, nor do I think that any one that reads his Bible will believe it enough. For our Lord told his apostles, that "ALL THINGS THAT HE HAD HEARD OF HIS FATHER HE HAD MADE KNOWN UNTO THEM." (John xv. 15.) And we find St. Paul telling the ministers of the Church of Ephesus, who came to meet him at Miletus, that "he had kept back NOTHING FROM THEM THAT WAS PROFITABLE UNTO THEM, but that he had DECLARED UNTO THEM ALL THE COUNSEL OF GOD." (Acts xx. 20—27.) If this be true, the "Book of Mormon" must be false; for our Lord said nothing about it to the apostles, nor the apostles to any one else. On the other hand, St. Paul says, "Though we

or an ANGEL FROM HEAVEN preach any other Gospel unto you THAN THAT WHICH WE HAVE PREACHED UNTO YOU, LET HIM BE ACCURSED." (Gal. i. 8, 9.) So that the "Book of Mormon" is another Gospel, or it is not. If it is another Gospel, we must not have anything to do with it,—at all events, we need even HIGHER EVIDENCE THAN THAT OF AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN; or, on the other hand, if it is not another Gospel, but the SAME WE HAVE ALREADY, then it is plain that it is not necessary.

C. But Joseph Smith said that the Lord told him that he was his prophet!

S. I have read that others have said the same thing, and yet they were false prophets. For God says, they told lies in his name, for he never sent them, nor spoke to them, nor commanded them. (Jer. xiv. 14; xxiii. 21, &c.) What evidence have you to show that Joseph Smith was not *telling lies?* *Mahomet* said the same.

C. My dear Sir, Joseph Smith said that

an angel came and told him that he was to be God's Prophet,—and this might be true for all I know, as I was not there to see. I do not think he would have said so if it had not been true.

S. This might be evidence enough for Joseph Smith, but, to tell the truth, it is not enough for me. I doubt not but it will be found wanting to every reasonable person; for Joseph Smith might have been deceived, or he might wish to make other people believe it, in order that he might get something by it. I have good reasons to doubt his story of the Angel coming to him, for I find that the angel story was told by another man. God sent a man to Bethel with his commands, and on his way back the man sat down to rest, when up came another man to him, and said that he was a prophet, and that an angel spoke to him by the Word of the Lord; but, it is added, he *lied unto him.* (1 Kings xiii. 18.) The poor man that was foolish enough to believe his story *lost* his life. (1 Kings xiii. 1—26.) The sin of

this man who lost his life was this :—God had given him his word to go by, and he ought to have followed it until God had told him otherwise. Instead of this, he went by the *word of man!* Now, ours is much the same case. We have the Word of God to go by,—by it we must go until it shall please God to order us otherwise. This being the case, what evidence have you to show why I should not believe *Joseph Smith* was telling a lie?

C. The Latter-day Saints have the spirit of prophecy; have you anything to say against that?

S. I believe that a person may have the spirit of prophecy, and yet this will afford no proof of the person being a true prophet. We read that the *false prophets had the spirit too.* It is likewise said, that it was a *lying spirit.* (1 Kings xxii. 21—23.) We are also told, that the *false teachers* that shall come to us will have a *lying spirit* too. (1 John iv. 1.) What evidence have you to show that the spirit, which you say the Latter-day Saints have, is not a *lying spirit?*

C. But, Mr. Stedfast, what have you to say to those many and wonderful miracles wrought by the Latter-day Saints in America and in Wales? They are quite as great, if not greater, than those spoken of in the Gospels, and wrought before a much greater number of people,—is not this evidence enough for you?

S. I am not quite sure that the account of their miracles is a true one. I would at once admit the force of a *true miracle,* if I saw it, or if I heard it attested by respectable authority. The only accounts we have of those miracles come from those who *may* have an interest in the matter. This is widely different from the manner in which the apostles acted when they went to preach the Gospel for the first time. They did not expect to make converts of the people of *Corinth,* or *Crete,* or *Ephesus,* by telling them that miracles had been wrought at Jerusalem. St. Paul says, that in every place he passed through, he proved his apostleship by *miracles, and by stedfastly keeping to the Word of God;* and although we know that

miracles were wrought in the time of the apostles and primitive Christians, we are not quite so *sure* that they are wrought now; those we hear of are of a very *questionable character.* I read that *false Christs and false prophets shall rise,* and shall shew *signs and wonders, to seduce,* if it were *possible,* even the elect; and God tells us to take heed of them.

C. Do you mean to say, that God will permit false prophets to work real miracles, and so deceive the people?

S. Yes, I do. God says, that "the man of sin, that wicked one, is to have his coming with all power, and signs, and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness." (2 Thess. ii. 8—10.) Yet, though the sign or wonder come to pass, we are not to hearken to them (Deut. xiii. 1—8); no matter whether the *wonder-worker* call himself Pope, *Latter-day Saint,* or anything else.

C. How, then, are we to know the true from the false prophets, as both work miracles? Is

there not very great danger of our being deceived, for I now begin to think so?

S. Yes; there is very great danger indeed; and we are told that many shall be deceived, for a man may work a real miracle. The *miracle* itself shows the man to have a supernatural power, but it affords no proof of the truth of his *doctrine,* that must be tested by the written Word; therefore the Lord has given us warning beforehand. God has told us how to find them out. God says, that when He sends us a prophet, he will not contradict his written Word; but if a prophet comes and contradicts his written Word, you will know at once that He has not sent him. Speaking of false prophets, God says, "When they" (the *false prophets*) "shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have *familiar spirits,* and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? from the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is

because there is no light in them." (Isaiah viii. 19, 20; Deut. xiii. 1—3.) Therefore, when a man tells us that he is the *Lord Jesus Christ*, as *Thom*, alias Sir William Courtenay, of Canterbury, did, about thirteen or fourteen years ago, look to Matt. xxiv. 24; or that he is the prophet of the Lord, as *Mahomet* did, then Jeremiah xiv. 14, will set you right; or should a person say that she is WITH CHILD by the Holy Ghost, which child is to be the *son of God*, as *Johanna Southcote* did, refer to 1 Kings xxii. 21—23; 1 John iv. 1; or, that the Lord Jesus Christ came to them, as they were milking the cow, that the cow saw Him and cowered down; or, that they are moved by the Spirit to preach, as Mrs. Elaw does, refer to 1 Kings xxii. 21—23; 1 John iv. 1. But, after all, we must ask for evidence to prove that they are not lying unto us.

C. Yet the Latter-day Saints, many of them at least, are very sincere, and a great many are going to America with them.

S. I have no doubt but that many, as you

say, are sincere, but this is no evidence of the truth of their doctrines. The heathen, in India, for instance, when he lays his body down so that the wheels of the carriage which contains the great image may crush him to pieces, proves that he is sincere; but you must allow that such sincerity is no proof that he is right. As to those you speak of, as about to leave for America, it is rather an evidence they are wrong. I mean to say, that it is enough, aye, and more than enough, to startle one, when we read that the false prophets told *lies in God's name to remove the people from their land.* (Jeremiah xxvii. 10.) Now, it is very dangerous to go with them, as you may learn by reading Acts v. 36—38. Our Lord likewise says, "*Beware* of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their *fruits*." (Matt. vii. 15, 16.) That is, the false prophets will assume the appearance of innocence, sincerity, and sanctity, while their hearts are evil, rapacious, and disposed to plunder, or,

in other words, they will put on the appearances of holiness in order to GET the *property of the people* more readily. God says, that a bishop or elder should be the husband of one wife, NOT WIVES. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave unto his wife; and they two" (not ninety-one!) "shall be one flesh." (1 Tim. iii. 2; Mark x. 9; Gen. ii. 24.)

C. I must say, that I do not think I need another revelation, at least, not until I have well looked into the OLD ONE, for what you have now told me is quite a new revelation to me.

S. I do not wish to offend you, my dear friend, for you know I respect you, although you do not go to the same church with me; but Solomon says, "The simple believeth every word; but the prudent man looketh well to his going." (Prov. xiv. 15.) Therefore we ought not to be simple men, but *noble men.* I mean noble in that sense in which St. Paul calls the Jews in Berea. Although he had given

proofs of his apostleship, and while they received the Word with all readiness of mind, they did not stop there; they knew St. Paul was but a man, although an apostle; they did not take his bare word for it. To their lasting honour it is recorded, that THEY SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY to see whether the apostle had told them the truth. (Acts xvii. 11.)

C. My dear friend, for such I really think you, I am not offended at anything you have said; but I hope, under *God's* blessing, to attend to His Word, and not to man, for the future.

S. One word more ere we part,—allow me to recommend to your notice the Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent, in the Book of Common Prayer.

Wertheim and Macintosh, 24, Paternoster-row, London.